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SECURITY INFORMATION

Chief, SE

4 September 1953

Senior Representative, []

INFO: Senior Representative, []

ATTN: []

SHAW BOYDEND PSYON

Situation at JEPARSON

Chief of Mission, Frankfurt

Chief of Base, Munich

ATTN: []

Reference: []

1. As reported in reference, [] visited Munich on 30 August and talked with the Commanding Officer of JEPARSON, [], as well as with the leaders of the various political factions represented in that installation, in an effort to get at the bottom of the troubles reported in recent letters and cables from members of JEPARSON to the political leaders of HTNEIGH/Rome.

2. The following was reported to []

A. Ymer Doda has been a constant source of trouble since his reinstatement in JEPARSON in December 1952. He was discharged on 22 August 1953 for negligence to duty and insubordination to his Commanding Officer.

B. The leaders of the ENMALEDICT and HTNEIGH told [], who talked with each privately, that, in discharging Doda, [] took the only measure possible if he were to maintain any sort of discipline in the company. Lt. Kola Nila, leader of Doda's political movement, QKPEDAL, admitted that Doda had been negligent and insubordinate but insisted that others in the company had committed equal misdemeanors and had not been dismissed.

C. Doda, who spent much of his time in promoting dissension among the men, convinced Bent Bajraktari, Neshat Bilalli, Liman Peposhi, and Tahir Vata (members of his political party, that they should resign. After talking with [], Peposhi and Vata changed their minds and remained at JEPARSON, but Bajraktari and Bilalli resigned and left the camp.

D. Lt. Nila cabled his political leader in Rome, [], that Doda, Bajraktari and Bilalli had resigned and that his fifteen men (not fifty, as reported by []) wished to resign in protest against discriminatory treatment. [] answered by cable that no action was to be taken until instructions were received from him ([]).

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2. [] Captain Bashe and Lt. Laci told [] they had heard that Bajraktari now realizes he was hotheaded and regrets his resignation. Lt. Hila did not verify this. He said his fifteen men were "disappointed" but that they would not resign or cause any trouble but would await a visit of the Military Junta to JEPARSON to straighten out the matter.

F. Bajraktari and Bilalli were popular with their commanding officers, who feel they were misguided by Doda. Both men were good workers and highly respected. They would be welcomed back in JEPARSON, but Captain Bashe feels they should retract the statement made in their letters of resignation that "Captain Bashe is not treating us fairly. He is always stepping on our group". Bashe feels that to readmit these two men without an apology from them would undermine the discipline of the other men in the company. After talking with Bashe, [] did not have an opportunity to discuss this with [].

3. Other points brought out in the discussions were:

A. JEPARSON has improved greatly in every respect - discipline, food, morale, etc - since [] became Commanding Officer. (This was unsolicited and was told to [] by all three political leaders. [] was not present during any of the conversations.)

B. Complaints to political leaders in Rome or elsewhere are grossly exaggerated. (Comments same as in A. above except that Lt. Hila does not feel true harmony can exist in JEPARSON as long as there are any Albanians in positions to command other Albanians. He feels that morale would be boosted if all responsibility were shifted to HECURIO officers and non-commissioned officers. This is not to be unexpected of a man who leads such a small minority group.)

C. Both Captain Bashe and Lt. Laci stated that politics have been eliminated from JEPARSON and that morale is at a high level. Statements made by Lt. Laci (HIMELON leader in JEPARSON) checked exactly with statements made by Captain Bashe (XHMALNDICT leader and second in command under [].

4. [] also inquired about the problem of food. [], Captain Bashe, Lt. Laci and Lt. Hila all told the same story: There are approximately fifteen Moslem fanatics in the company who not only refuse to eat pork in any form but refuse to sit at a table where others are eating it. Pork, including bacon, ham, sausage, salami and fresh pork, is served at four of the twenty-one meals per week. When pork is served there is always some other meat substitute - fish, cheese, eggs, etc. This substitute, however, does not satisfy the non-pork eaters, who appear to feel that the other men in the company are receiving rations which are rightfully theirs. Lt. Laci, in particular, feels that special feeding arrangements should be made for these fanatic Moslems.

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5. Upon her return to [] [] discussed the pork problem with [] who emphatically feels that such pampering measures as suggested by Lt. Laci should not be taken. Most of the disgruntled fifteen men are Kossovars, and it is believed that Hysen Terpesa, a most reasonable Moslem, has considerable influence among them. He is being asked to write them, requesting that they change their attitude.

Prepared by:

2 September 1953

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